

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-491
Cole House
Sparks, Baltimore County
Circa 1840
Private

The Cole House is located near the historic village of Coopersville and Butler in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. The Fifth District has very few towns and its population is sparse compared to other neighboring districts. In 1881, it had a population of 2,241. During the late 19th century, this area was considered a highly industrial section of Baltimore County, due to its numerous saw-mills, paper-mills, and flour-mills. The village of Butler is located at the southern edge of the district. In 1881, the Black Rock Methodist Episcopal church and the J.H. Millender mills. This dwelling is seen on the 1850 Atlas as Mrs. Cole's, and on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas as John Cole's residence and farm of 160 acres. He is listed as a patron of the atlas with a Butler Post Office address, his occupation as a farmer, and an 1829 date of settlement. Seen on the 1915 Bromley Atlas, this farm is the Rebecca Cole estate with 130 acres.

This Greek Revival-style brick dwelling was constructed circa 1840 and stands two-and-a-half stories in height and five bays wide. It sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and features a stretcher bond brick veneer on the façade and a six course American bond on the side and rear elevations. A one-story gable-roof portico covers the central entry and is supported with Tuscan posts and sits on a stone pier foundation. The entrance contains a single-leaf wood paneled door with 4-light and dado sidelights with a 5-light transom. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash and features square-edged wood sills and lug wood hood moldings. The center tripartite window bay on the second story is a 6/6 window flanked by two 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows. Wood louvered vents are seen in the basement openings, and a bulkhead entrance to the basement is seen on the side elevation. The asphalt shingle cross-gable roof features a boxed molded wood denticulated cornice with modillions. Rising above the roof of the main block are two interior-end capped brick chimneys and one interior-end brick chimney in the rear ell brick addition. Associated with the property are five historic outbuildings.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-491

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Cole House

other

2. Location

street and number 15615 Falls Road not for publication

city, town Sparks vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bessie G. Palmer

street and number 15321 Falls Road telephone Not Available

city, town Sparks state MD zip code 21152

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 9190 folio 423

city, town Towson tax map 27 tax parcel 54 tax ID number 505061100

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	6
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	6
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-491

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This Greek Revival-style brick dwelling was constructed circa 1840 and stands two-and-a-half stories in height and five bays wide. It sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and features a stretcher bond brick veneer on the façade and a six course American bond on the side and rear elevations. A one-story gable-roof portico covers the central entry and is supported with Tuscan posts and sits on a stone pier foundation. The entrance contains a single-leaf wood paneled door with 4-light and dado sidelights with a 5-light transom. The windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash and features square-edged wood sills and lug wood hood moldings. The center tripartite window bay on the second story is a 6/6 window flanked by two 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows. Wood louvered vents are seen in the basement openings, and a bulkhead entrance to the basement is seen on the side elevation. The asphalt shingle cross-gable roof features a boxed molded wood denticulated cornice with modillions. Rising above the roof of the main block are two interior-end capped brick chimneys and one interior-end brick chimney in the rear ell brick addition.

Associated with the property are five historic outbuildings. First is a circa 1840 springhouse standing one-story high and one bay wide constructed of random rubble stone. It has one single-leaf vertical board door and the side gable roof is clad with wood shingles. Next, is a circa 1940 shed, one story high and one bay wide. It is wood frame clad with pressed vertical board siding. It features a single-leaf vertical board door, exposed roof rafters, and a front gable asphalt-shingle roof. Its foundation has been replaced with cinderblocks. A circa 1950 garage is next to the shed. It is one story high and one bay wide with a front gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. It has one wood panel and light roll-up door. Two circa 1950 chicken houses are sited away from the house. They both are one-story and feature side gable standing-seam metal roofs. One has a partial concrete pier and block foundation. It is clad with both vertical board siding and plywood, and has one exterior concrete block chimney. The second chicken house has a concrete block foundation and is clad with vertical board siding. It has one hinge-up paneled wood door and an exterior aluminum flue pipe.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-491

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1840 ca.	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1840 ca.		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Cole House is located near the historic village of Coopersville and Butler in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. The Fifth District has very few towns and its population is sparse compared to other neighboring districts. It covers over 47 square miles and is bounded on the west by Carroll County, on the north by the Sixth District, on the east by the Seventh and Eighth Districts, and on the south by the Eighth and Fourth Districts. In 1881, it had a population of 2,241. During the late 19th century, this area was considered a highly industrial section of Baltimore County, due to its numerous saw-mills, paper-mills, and flour-mills. The village of Butler is located at the southern edge of the district. In 1881, the Black Rock Methodist Episcopal church and the J.H. Millender mills.¹ This dwelling is seen on the 1850 Atlas as Mrs. Cole's, and on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas as John Cole's residence and farm of 160 acres. He is listed as a patron of the atlas with a Butler Post Office address, his occupation as a farmer, and an 1829 date of settlement. Seen on the 1915 Bromley Atlas, this farm is the Rebecca Cole estate with 130 acres.

¹ Thomas J. Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*, (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 869.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-491

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 8.3 Acre

Acreage of historical setting 130 Acres

Quadrangle name Hereford, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This house constructed circa 1840, is located at 15615 Falls Road in Sparks in the Fifth District of Baltimore County. It has been historically associated with tax map 27, parcel 54 since its construction.

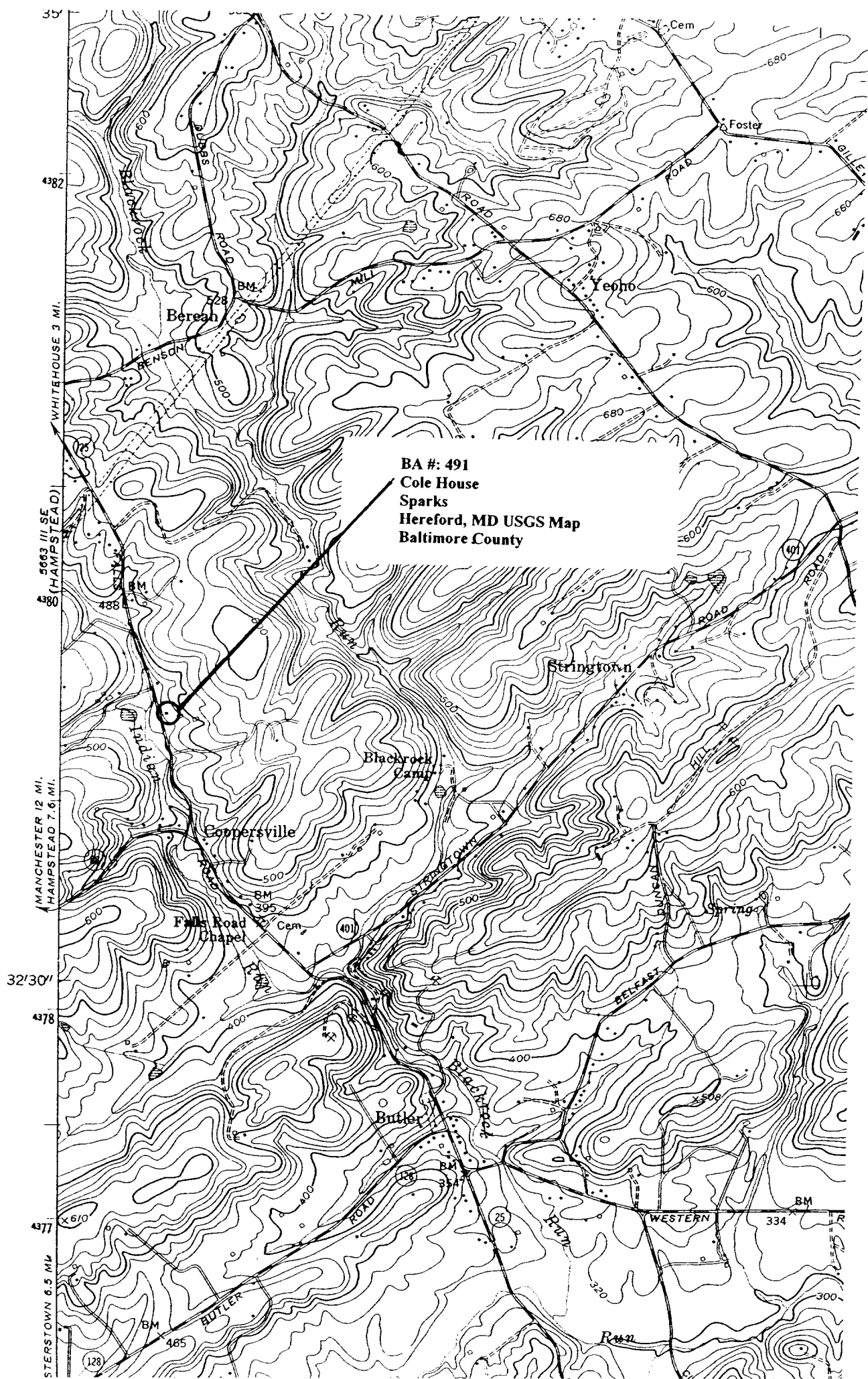
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, Architectural Historian		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 22, 2002
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600





BA-491

COLE HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPD

MAIN HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION

1 of 6



BA-491

COLE HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2002

MD SHPD

MAIN HOUSE, NORTHEAST CORNER

2 of 6



BA-491

COLE HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPD

MAIN HOUSE, SOUTHEAST CORNER

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BA-491

COLE HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

SPRINGHOUSE, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

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BA-491

COLE HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

S of 6



BA-491

COLE HOUSE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

4/2002

MD SHPO

CHICKEN HOUSES, VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

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